

## **HELP KEEP IMPAIRED DRIVERS OFF MONTANA ROADS**

If you suspect a driver is driving under the influence,

### **CALL YOUR LOCAL LAW ENFORCEMENT**

Report them. You need not give your name.

#### **What to look for:**

- Unreasonably wide turns
- Straddling the center line
- Driving next to the fog line, shoulder or curbs
- Swerving or weaving
- Driving at night with no lights
- Driving at too fast or too slow speeds
- Driving with windows down in cold weather
- Sitting at a green light
- Running a red light

#### **Make the call.....You could save a life!**

If you are at a party or out with friends and people are drinking:

- Make sure there is a designated non-drinking driver
- If you think someone is impaired take their keys
- Call them a cab
- Drive them home yourself
- Let them spend the night at your house

Do something. Don't let anyone drive impaired or under the influence of alcohol or other drugs

# **MONTANA CRACKS DOWN ON DUI'S**

- **BAC LEVEL LOWERED TO 0.08%**
- **JAIL SENTENCES RAISED**
- **FINES INCREASED**
- **DRIVER'S LICENSE SUSPENSIONS INCREASED**
- **DRIVER'S LICENSE REINSTATEMENT FEE INCREASED**



### **For more information about the hazards of drinking and driving contact:**

Montana Department of Transportation  
State Highway Traffic Safety Office  
2701 Prospect Ave.  
Helena, MT 59620-1001  
Phone: (406) 444-7411  
Fax: (406) 444-9409

# **MONTANA GETS TOUGH ON**



# **DUI**

## DUI

The 2003 Montana Legislature changed the Driving Under The Influence (DUI) laws in the state and made them much more stringent. This included lowering the Blood Alcohol Concentration (BAC) level from .10% to .08% when operating a motor vehicle. Penalties were revised and raised when a person is convicted of the offense of DUI. For commercial vehicle operators the BAC level is .04%.

Driving under the influence includes use of substances other than just alcohol. It also includes illegal substances such as cocaine, marijuana, methamphetamines and others. If you drive, be aware of what you are taking into your body. Don't use alcohol or other drugs, be sure to read the warning labels on over-the-counter medications and check with your pharmacist if you are taking prescription drugs.



## PENALTIES FOR DUI

Penalties are stiff! Fines begin at \$100 and can run as high as \$10,000, and you can lose your driver's license from 6 months to life. Jail time will run from 24 hours to 5 years. You can also have your vehicle confiscated and sold and there are other penalties as well.

If you are under 21, and have a BAC of .02 or higher fines run from \$100 to \$500, and, if over the age of 18, can spend time in jail.

If and when a person gets their driver's license returned they must pay a \$200 reinstatement fee.

According to national statistics, one-third of all drivers arrested and convicted of DUI are repeat offenders.

## TESTS

A person who operates or is in actual physical control of a vehicle upon ways of this state open to the public is considered to have given consent to a test or tests of the person's blood or breath for the purpose of determining any measurable amount or detected presence of alcohol or drugs in the person's body.

If the person refuses said tests, the officer will seize the person's driver's license, and then issue a 5-day temporary driving permit. On first refusal the driver's license will be suspended for 6 months and on 2<sup>nd</sup> or subsequent refusals within 5 years of a first refusal the license will be suspended for 1 year. Both suspensions do not allow for a restricted provisional license to be issued.